



US009638443B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Shimazu et al.**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,638,443 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 2, 2017**

(54) **AIR-CONDITIONING APPARATUS**

(56) **References Cited**

(75) Inventors: **Yusuke Shimazu**, Tokyo (JP);  
**Yoshihiro Sumida**, Tokyo (JP); **Koji**  
**Azuma**, Tokyo (JP)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,381,651 A \* 5/1983 Kubo ..... F25B 41/06  
62/296  
5,875,651 A \* 3/1999 Hill ..... F25B 41/06  
138/44

(Continued)

(73) Assignee: **MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC**  
**CORPORATION**, Tokyo (JP)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 735 days.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

CN 201886685 U \* 6/2011  
IT EP 0722667 A1 \* 7/1996 ..... A23G 9/04  
(Continued)

(21) Appl. No.: **14/119,011**

(22) PCT Filed: **Jun. 14, 2011**

(86) PCT No.: **PCT/JP2011/003387**

§ 371 (c)(1),  
(2), (4) Date: **Nov. 20, 2013**

(87) PCT Pub. No.: **WO2012/172599**

PCT Pub. Date: **Dec. 20, 2012**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2014/0083126 A1 Mar. 27, 2014

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**F25B 30/02** (2006.01)  
**F25B 41/06** (2006.01)

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
CPC ..... **F25B 30/02** (2013.01); **F25B 13/00**  
(2013.01); **F25B 41/06** (2013.01); **F25B 49/00**  
(2013.01);

(Continued)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
CPC ..... **F25B 41/06**; **F25B 2313/006**; **F25B**  
**2313/0293**; **F25B 2400/0411**;

(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

International Search Report of the International Searching Authority  
mailed Sep. 13, 2011 for the corresponding international application  
No. PCT/JP2011/003387 (and English translation).

(Continued)

*Primary Examiner* — Allana Lewin Bidder

*Assistant Examiner* — Zachary R Anderegge

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Posz Law Group, PLC

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An air-conditioning apparatus is capable of suppressing refrigerant flow noise regardless the refrigerant state of an inlet of an expansion mechanism. In parallel to a flow control valve, an opening and closing valve that opens and closes a refrigerant passage and an expansion mechanism having porous bodies capable of passing a refrigerant there-through are connected in series with each other. In a heating mode, in the case where a controller stops an operation of one or more of a plurality of indoor units and causes the other indoor unit(s) to operate, the flow control valve of the stopped indoor unit is fully closed and the opening and closing valve of the stopped indoor unit is opened.

**12 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**

